

Message Text

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TAGS: ECA, CCON, TECH
SUBJ: AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON
- SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: CONCLUSION

REF: (A) CAIRO 19919, (B) CAIRO 20002, (C) CAIRO 19988

1. AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING CONCLUDED ITS WORK SEPTEMBER 29 BY ADOPTING REPORT OF THE MEETING. (AS WITH ALL OTHER SUBSTANTIVE WORK ACCOMPLISHED AT THE MEETING, THIS TOO HAS BEEN PREPARED BY THE WORKING GROUP ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW THE DRAFT REGIONAL REPORT PREPARED BY THE ECA SECRETARIAT.) MEETING ALSO ADOPTED A REVISION OF CHAPTER VI OF THE SECRETARIAT DRAFT (PROGRAM OF ACTION) WHICH HAD BEEN DEVELOPED BY A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE WORKING GROUP. THE LATTER UNDERTAKING, WHILE CONSUMING MOST OF THE TIME AVAILABLE AND THE WORKING GROUP MEMBERS LIMITED THEMSELVES TO ELABORATING FURTHER UPON THE PROGRAM OF ACTION SUGGESTED BY THE ECA SECRETARIAT BUT WITHOUT INTRODUCING ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES OR NEW DEPARTURES. ALL DOCUMENTS BEING
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2. IN FACT, THE TIME AVAILABLE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THE SORT OF DETAILED REVIEW THE HUNDRED-ODD PAGES OF THE SECRETARIAT DRAFT WARRANTED IF IT WAS TO BE MADE THE PRODUCT OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, AND A NUMBER OF MEMBERS EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE DRAFT HAD ONLY BECOME AVAILABLE AT THE OUT-

SET OF THE MEETING, THUS PRECLUDING PRIOR STUDY IN CAPITALS.
IT WAS THE CONSENSUS THAT FURTHER EXAMINATION AND
ELABORATION WAS REQUIRED, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SUB-
COMMITTEE WAS EMPOWERED TO CONTINUE ITS COLLABORATION WITH
THE ECA SECRETARIAT (SEE SEPTTEL ON RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED).
MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ARE: CHAD, EGYPT, KENYA,
LESOTHO, NIGER AND SUDAN.

3. THIS DEVICE OF CONTINUED COLLABORATION WITH DESIGNATED
REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS APPEARED TO BE
WELCOMED ESPECIALLY BY THE ECA SECRETARIAT WHICH WERE
ANXIOUS NOT TO BE HELD SOLELY ACCOUNTABLE THEMSELVES FOR
THE REGIONAL DOCUMENTATION PLACED BEFORE THE THIRD UNCSTD
PREPCOMM. NEWLY APPOINTED UN DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOP-
MENT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DADZIE PUT IN A BRIEF
APPEARANCE AT THE MEETING ON AUGUST 28, EXPLAINING THAT HE
HAD BEEN DESIGNATED TO SUPERVISE PREPARATIONS FOR UNCSTD
AND TO OVERSEE THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT DURING THE
ABSENCE OF DA COSTA. DADZIE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE
NOW OF MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF UNCSTD PREPARATIONS AND,
PROBABLY REFLECTING SIMILAR CONCERNS ON THE PART OF THE
UN SECRETARIAT AT THIS JUNCTURE, RECALLED THAT THE
TASK OF MAINTAINING MOMENTUM IS ESSENTIALLY RESPONSIBILITY
OF GOVERNMENTS.

4. SEPTTEL REPORTS ON FIVE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE CLOSE
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OF THE MEETING, ALL BY ACCLAMATION AND ALL WITH MINIMUM
PLENARY DISCUSSION OR REVISION. AS SEPTTEL POINTS OUT,
TWO OF THESE MAY WARRANT SPECIAL ATTENTION. MATTHEWS

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